Discussion with International Atomic Energy Agency

†4591. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that discussion of Indian representatives is still continuing with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

(b) if so, the main issue of discussion;

(c) whether it is a fact that success of this discussion depends upon success of implementation of atomic agreement that was entered into on 18th July, 2005 between India and America; and

(d) if not, the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) Government had three exploratory meetings with IAEA on the main concepts that would be embedded in an India Specific Safeguard Agreement. These were perforce exploratory in nature since the contours of the 123 Bilateral Co-operation Agreement and more importantly the implications of the US legislation on the subject (Hyde Act) were not clear. Discussions will continue with IAEA on developing an India Specific Safeguard Agreement.

Overhauling of coal distribution system

4592. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's coal distribution system is set for an overhaul and is likely to be based on the needs of regulated and non-regulated sectors and the committee for evaluation of policy for distribution headed by the Coal Secretary has been appointed to formulate the new policy;

(b) the main recommendations made;

(c) whether to increase the availability of coal having high utilizable heat value, Coal India Limited has decided to set up a washery in all new mines that would be opened up from now; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) In compliance of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court a Committee has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) to formulate Coal Distribution Policy. The recommendations of the Committee are in final stages of formulation and would then be submitted to Government for approval.

(c) and (d) With a view to provide better quality satisfaction, CIL is, *inter-alia*, contemplating to involve participation of private entrepreneurs having core competence in the field of coal washing, for setting up washeries with modern technology on Build & and Operate basis for supply of improved quality after washing, to the consumers, except for those located at pithead. Coal India Limited (CIL) and Subsidiary Companies may provide infrastructural and other facilities. CIL is also contemplating to set up washeries at all new open cast projects of more than 2.50 mty capacity which are not linked to pithead power station.

Coal-mining block to private sector

4593. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coal blocks which have been given to the private sector, till date, for mining;

(b) the names of the parties with size of the coal blocks reserve in terms of million tonnes;

(c) the number of the private parties who have started mining coal for their own use since these blocks have been given on captive basis;

(d) Government's action thereto with the private parties who have not started using these coal-mining blocks; and

(e) whether his Ministry have any plan to cancel these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) 60 coal blocks have been allocated to the private sector companies so far.